

Message Text

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ACTION ERDA-07

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CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 091430Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9582

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 0329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, CZ

SUBJ: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN ENERGY PROGRAMS

REF: 75 STATE 289786, PRAGUE 1410

1. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
STATE REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: EMBASSY EFFORTS TO DEVELOP COMPLETE AND
FULL RESPONSES TO INFORMATIONAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED STATE REFTEL
HAVE NOT BEEN NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL. AS NOTED PRAGUE REFTEL,
PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S R&D EFFORTS IN ENERGY
SPHERE IS SCANTY AND, SINCE TOPIC IS CONSIDERED TO BE SOMEWHAT
SENSITIVE FROM SECURITY ANGLE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT
TO TALK OPENLY ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS AREA. WE WERE,
NEVERTHELESS, ABLE TO GLEAN SOME FACTS FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH
MID-LEVEL MINISTRY AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS
WHICH, WHEN PUT TOGETHER WITH WHAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ON
NATION'S ENERGY PROGRAM RECENTLY, PROVIDED US WITH BASIS
FOR RESPONSES BELOW WHICH ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN STATE
REFTEL:

3. OVERALL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

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II. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS OR OFFICIAL DIRECTORIES TO SHOW EXACTLY WHERE RESPONSIBILITY LIES AT THE TOP FOR ENERGY R&D, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ING. (FOR ENGINEER) JOSEF SIMON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (ONE OF TEN), HAS OVERALL AUTHORITY FOR COORDINATING ENERGY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. (IN EARLY FEBRUARY, SIMON RECEIVED NIKOLAI D. MALTSEV, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF CEMA'S INTERATOMENERGO, TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ATOMIC POWER STATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS EVENT, COUPLED WITH FACT THAT SIMON'S PREDECESSOR IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, ING. VLASTIMIL EHRENBERGER, WAS MOVED TO FILL SLOT OF FEDERAL MINISTER OF FUELS AND POWER UPON DEATH OF INCUMBENT IN LATE 1974, TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT SIMON'S PORTFOLIO NOW INCLUDES ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS.) BELOW SIMON THERE ARE TWO FEDERAL MINISTRIES THAT HAVE ENERGY R&D RESPONSIBILITIES: FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT (FMTIR) NOW HEADED BY MINISTER LADISLAV SUPKA, AND FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FUELS AND POWER, HEADED BY EHRENBERGER. PRACTICALLY ALL BASIC RESEARCH FALLS UNDER AEGIS OF FMTIR, AND THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE AS REGARDS NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS WHERE, AS REPORTED PRVME 1410, CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS CURRENTLY DIRECTING MOST OF HER R&D EFFORTS. NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT REZ (NEAR PRAGUE) COMES DIRECTLY UNDER ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WHOSE OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN SAME BUILDING AS FMTIR AND WHOSE CHAIRMAN, ING. JAN NEUMANN, ALSO CARRIES TITLE OF DEPUTY MINISTER AT FMTIR. FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FUELS AND POWER HAS BASIC R&D RESPONSIBILITIES ONLY FOR SOLID FUELS (MAINLY BROWN AND BLACK COAL) AND APPLIED RESEARCH RESPONSIBILITIES IN OTHER ENERGY AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE USES FOR OR BETTER UTILIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CONSIDERABLE RESERVES OF -- MOSTLY BROWN -- COAL IS TASK OF MINISTRY OF FUELS AND POWER.

II. BELOW LIST IS EMBASSY'S OWN COMPILATION OF AGENCIES OR OFFICES EITHER WITHIN ABOVE MINISTRIES OR OUTSIDE OF THEM THAT HAVE EITHER ENERGY POLICY AND ANALYSIS OR ENERGY R&D RESPONSIBILITIES (ADDRESSES WITHIN PARENTHESES):

-- ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
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(FMTIR, SLEZSKA 9, PRAGUE 2)

-- NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(REZ, CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

-- INSTITUTDC OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS - ATTACHED TO CZECHOSLOVAK
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (RES, CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

-- INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL-ENERGY BASIS
(IRPEZ) (FMTIR, SLEZSKA 9, PRAGUE 2)

-- INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND UTILIZATION OF FUELS
(BECHOVICE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

-- RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF FUELS AND ELECTRICITY

(VLADISLWSOVA 4, PRAGUE 1)

-- RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC POWER
(PARTYZANSKA 7, PRAGUE 7)

-- SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF COAL
(OSTRAVA-RADVANICE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

-- MINING INSTITUTE -- ATTACHED TO CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES (V HOLESOVICKACH 41, PRAGUE ALIBEN)

ALTHOUGH ABOVE LIST MAY SUGGEST THAT ENERGY R&D PROGRAM
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOT AS FOCUSSED AS IT SHOULD BE, WITH
MANY RESEARCH INSTITUTES HAVING APPARENTLY OVERLAPPING
RESPONSIBILITIES, IT PERHAPS SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT
EACH AGENCY PROBABLY HAS WELL-DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES IN
EITHER BASIC OR APPLIED RESEARCH DEPENDING UPON
MINISTRY UNDER WHICH IT FALLS.

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R 091430Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9583

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4. ENERGY POLICY

I. ENERGY OBJECTIVES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND APPROACH TO ENERGY R&D.

A. IN 1970, STRUCTURE OF FUEL AND POWER COMSUMPTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS: SOLID FUELS, 83.5 PERCENT; LIQUID FUELS, 11.7 PERCENT; NATURAL GAS, 3.6 PERCENT; AND NUCLEAR AND HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY, 1.2 PERCENT. ACCORDING TO STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, THESE RATIOS IN 1990 WILL BE: SOLID FUELS, 58.0 PERCENT (DOWN 40 PERCENT ON 1970); LIQUID FUELS, 24.6 PERCENT (UP 120 PERCENT); NATURAL GAS, 7.4 PERCENT (UP 100 PERCENT); AND NUCLEAR AND HYDROELECTRIC 10.0 PERCENT (UP OVER 800 PERCENT). USING THESE PROJECTIONS AS A GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY R&D POLICY PLANS, WE FEEL FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT ASSERTION IN PRAGUE REFTEL TO EFFECT THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTENDS TO CONCENTRATE R&D EFFORTS IN NUCLEAR FIELD IS AN ACCURATE ONE. CZECHS ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT DOMESTIC R&D BASE IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR TASK OF REALIZING GAINS IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH WITHOUT AID AND ASSISTANCE OF CEMA PARTNERS, PRINCIPALLY USSR. AS NOTED PRAGUE REFTEL, COOPERATIVE RESEARCH WITH SOVIETS HAS IN FACT BEEN ONGOING SINCE AROUND 1955 AND IS LIKELY TO INTENSIFY IN COMING YEARS. AS REGARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ENERGY, GOVERNMENT IS ALSO NOT LIKELY TO

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HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS THAT THROUGH ANY COMBINATION OF R&D

EFFORTS, OR BY COOPERATING WITH CEMA PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC ENERGY BASE, NATION CAN EVER HOPE TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ENERGY. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL INCREASINGLY NEED TO RELY ON COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AMONG CEMA COUNTRIES TO ASSURE STEADY SUPPLY OF FUEL AND POWER FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. PERHAPS IF NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL, NATION CAN DRAW ON ITS CONSIDERABLE RESERVES OF URANIUM TO SUPPLY MORE OF ITS OWN POWER NEEDS, BUT THIS IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY AT THIS POINT. CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S BROWN COAL (LIGNITE) RESERVES ARE INDEED EXTENSIVE, BUT QUALITY IS A PROBLEM SINCE SULPHUR CONTENT IS OFTEN AS HIGH AS 15 PERCENT AND ITS INCREASED USE WOULD BE LIKELY TO POSE AN UNACCEPTABLY HIGH THREAT TO ENVIRONMENT.

B. R&D PRIORITIES -- SEE ABOVE AND PRAGUE REFTEL.

5. ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES -- STATUS AND OUTLOOK FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

I. MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

-- CEMA PERMANENT ENERGY COMMISSION. DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT COMPLETE.

-- CEMA; INTERATOMENERGO. DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT UNKNOWN, BUT WE SUSPECT IT IS AS GREAT AS THAT OF ANY OTHER NON-SOVIET CEMA MEMBER.

-- ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE. EMBASSY IS NOT CURRENTLY AWARE OF ORGANIZATIONS OR STUDY GROUPS SET UP WITHIN ECE TO STUDY ENERGY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING AGENCIES WITHIN WHICH INFORMATION ON MEMBER COUNTRIES' R&D EFFORTS MIGHT BE REGULARLY SHARED, BUT IN VIEW OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S LONG TERM PARTICIPATION IN WORK OF THAT ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN ENGINEERING SPHERE, IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT SHE IS NOW ENGAGED IN A LIMITED WAY IN THINGS ECE MIGHT BE DOING ON ENERGY.

II. UNKNOWN.
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6. KEY OFFICIALS WITH SIGNIFICANT ENERGY R&D RESPONSIBILITIES

-- ING. JOSEF SIMON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. BORN IN MARCH, 1921, IN EASTERN BOHEMIA. HE HAS BEEN MOVING STEADILY UPWARD BOTH IN INDUSTRY AND THE PARTY STRUCTURE SINCE 1948. IN 1971, HE WAS PROMOTED TO FEDERAL MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING AND WAS ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SINCE DECEMBER, 1974, HE HAS BEEN FEDERAL DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS THE REPUTATION IN INDUSTRY AS AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.

-- LADISLAV SUPKA, MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT. HAS HELD POSITION FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

-- ING. VLASTIMIL EHRENBERGER, MINISTER FOR FUELS AND POWER. A FORMER MINER, WITH LONG EXPERIENCE IN THE ENERGY FIELD. EHRENBERGER WAS OBVIOUSLY ASKED TO RELINQUISH HIS POST AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN 1974 IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER A KEY MINISTERIAL POST UPON THE DEATH OF FORMER INCUMBENT. EHRENBERGER IS A YOUNG (40) PARTY STALWART WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE DISTRICT OF OLOMOUC. HE HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH PARTY ACTIVITIES SINCE HE FIRST BEGAN WORKING IN THE MINES IN 1950. SINCE 1970 HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

(NO BIODATA AVAILABLE ON OFFICIALS NAMED BELOW):

-- ING. JAN NEUMANN, CHAIRMAN, CZECHOSLOVAK
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

-- ING. KAREL BARABAS, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN,
CZECHOSLOVAK AEC.

-- ING. STANISLAV HAVEL, DIRECTOR, NUCLEAR RESEARCH
INSTITUTE.

-- DOC. DR. JOSEF TUCEK, DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF
NUCLEAR PHYSICS.

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-- ING. SLAVOJ ODEHNAL, CSC., DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL-ENERGY BASIS (IRPEZ).

-- ING. MIROSLAV NACURA, CSC., DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH AND UTILIZATION OF FUELS.

-- DR. JOSEF FABIAN, DIRECTOR, RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF FUEL AND ELECTRIC POWER.

-- ING. FRANTISEK HOMOLA, DIRECTOR, RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC POWER.

-- ING. ADENEK MATUSEK, DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF COAL.

-- ING. GUSTAV SEBOR, DIRECTOR, MINING INSTITUTE.
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